



DESCRIPTION OF AN APPARENTLY NEW *ACACIA*
FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

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(Plate XIII.)

ACACIA NEGLECTA, n.sp.

A variable shrub often flowering when only a few inches high, but attaining a height of 12 feet or more; glabrous in all its parts, rarely glaucous, the branchlets acutely angular at the extremities but soon terete.

Phyllodia ovate, narrowed at each end, sometimes obliquely falcate, mucronate, the margins thickened, coriaceous, much thicker than in *A. prominens*, 1-nerved, obscurely veined, marginal gland on the upper margin a little removed from the base, often absent; $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad.

Racemes about twice the length of the phyllodes, with 3 to 15 globular heads of 6 to 10 flowers each, mostly 5-merous.

Flowers larger than those of *A. prominens* and seemingly smaller than those of *A. lunata*, as defined in the *Flora Australiensis*. Calyx smooth, short, and broadly lobed. Petals smooth, thin, easily separating. *Pod flat, slightly glaucous, straight or slightly curved, about 4 to 6 lines broad, usually about 3 to 4 inches long, neither so short nor so broad as the pods of A. prominens.*

Seeds small, slightly oblique, *in the centre of the pod*, funicle thickened at the end near the seed into a club-shaped aril, and one small fold below it.

Hab.—Bowenfels and Rylstone District, and other trans-Blue Mountain localities.

This species is fairly common in the above localities; its range cannot yet be fully defined.

When first obtained in flower this species was placed provisionally with *A. lunata*, but the pods had not then been received. When these were obtained it was at once evident that they were not the *lunata* pods described in the *Flora Australiensis*, as the seeds are not "close to the upper suture," which distinguishes it also from the immediate congeners of *A. lunata*, viz., *A. decora* and *A. buxifolia*. The position of the seeds in *A. lunata* as stated by Bentham is confirmed by Baron von Mueller (*Key to the System of Victorian Plants*), who, at page 191 of that work, states "seeds close along the anterior margins of the fruit."

These two great authorities naturally give prominence to the position of the seed in defining *A. lunata*, and it is hardly probable that the pods were wrongly matched. There therefore seems no alternative but to give the Acacia (as defined by us) specific rank.

We realise the responsibility of adding to the already long list of specific names of Acacias, but the position appears to be this:—

1. Is the *Acacia lunata* of Sieber correctly described in such an important matter as the pods and seeds?
2. If not, can the description be amended so as to allow our description to replace Sieber's for this species?
3. We think that, if the description be imperfect to the extent suggested, there is no alternative but to define our plant as a distinct species. For it we therefore propose the name *Acacia neglecta*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

Fig. 1.—Expanded flower.

Fig. 2.—Pistil.

Fig. 3.—Fruit.

Fig. 4.—Seed shown *in situ*.

All enlarged except the pod.